

RADIUM IS IMMUNE AS ROBBERS' LOOT

Gift of Gram to Mme. Curie, Valued at \$100,000, Protects Itself.

KEPT IN GLASS TUBE

Radiation Is So Powerful That Exposure May Cause Death.

PURE PRODUCT IS RARE

Presence of Foreign Substance Makes It a Difficult Matter to Weigh.

The gram of radium, about as big as a peanut and valued at \$100,000, which a committee of scientists and women are planning to present to Mme. Curie, discoverer of radium, will not be stolen—unless some pickpocket undervalues his health and his fingers. He may literally get his fingers burned off, Dr. Francis Carter Wood, director of the Crocker Cancer Research Laboratory at Columbia University, said yesterday.

Dr. Wood told many interesting facts about radium and explained in simple language how it will be "bottled" and tested by the United States Government after it has been extracted from 500 tons of carnotite ore and transported.

"Wonderful stories," said Dr. Wood, "have been coming out of Paris concerning the way in which the gram of radium to be presented to Mme. Curie by President Harding is to be measured, and elaborate descriptions have been cabled over of imaginary platinum tubes in which the radium is to be incased.

"All this makes a good story, but the fact is that radium is not kept in platinum tubes, but in simple glass ones, sealed up tightly so that none of the gas which the radium gives off can escape. The reason for the sealing of the tubes is that the gas, if it is breathed in any quantity, is quite destructive to the white corpuscles of the blood and may even cause death.

"Then, to protect any one who is to handle the substance, the glass tube in which the radium salts are packed—for radium is never sold as a pure metal—is enclosed in a cylindrical shaped lead bottle, with a heavy lead cap screwed on the top. It looks much like a case for a stick of shaving soap.

"For ordinary purposes in the handling of small quantities of radium about one-quarter inch of lead gives pretty good protection, so that one could carry the bottle about for a few hours without risk, though some of the radium rays penetrate even this thickness of lead. Larger quantities, such as a gram, give off so much radiation even through one-quarter inch of lead, that if the package should remain for any length of time near the human body at least one-half inch of lead would be necessary for protection, and it would be extremely unwise to carry the radium in one's pocket for more than a few hours.

"So Mme. Curie's treasure when it is handed to her will look like a small amount of tooth powder sealed up in a glass tube about one-quarter of an inch in diameter and an inch long, enclosed

in a heavy piece of lead pipe. The outer trappings may be gorgeous, but inside the box which contains it there will be nothing to attract a pickpocket or a holdup man. In fact, gaudy gentlemen who have stolen radium from physicians have turned up a few weeks later with very unpleasant and slow healing burns either on their fingers or opposite the spot where the radium was carried, and in one instance the thief was traced through his application for treatment at a dispensary, the physician who examined him recognizing the nature of the radium burn.

"If a thief should crack the tube and pour the powder into his hand, actual contact with the gram of radium for a few minutes only would from the resulting burn reduce that organ to a scarred and useless appendage in the course of a few weeks.

"All this renders it very improbable that Mme. Curie will carry her \$100,000 treasure in her vanity bag. She will place it as quickly as possible in a safe deposit vault and will transmit it to her laboratory in Paris by express.

"So much for the way in which the radium will be cared for. The testing of it after purchase will be done by the Bureau of Standards in Washington and is a very interesting process.

Radium as sold is never pure, but is a mixture of radium salt—usually the sulphate—with barium sulphate and sometimes a trace of mesothorium. The labor of separating the barium from the radium completely is so great that perhaps only a few chemists in the world have ever seen pure radium salts. Mme. Curie herself having been the first to prepare the pure product.

"It is therefore impossible to weigh out exact amounts of radium salts, but inasmuch as the contaminating substance does not in any way alter the radium for medicinal use or in the treatment of cancer, the presence of a small amount of impurity does no harm."

PINKERTONS SEARCH FOR MRS. RANKINE

Detectives Called in After Conference of Relatives of Rich Widow.

Search for Mrs. Annette Kingsley Rankine of 14 East Sixtieth street, who disappeared mysteriously from her home and friends on Friday, April 3, has been placed in the hands of the Pinkerton National Detective Agency.

That action was taken yesterday as a result of a conference, the participants in which were Benjamin Vernon Norton, only brother of the missing woman; her two brothers-in-law, William T. and M. Mullaly; Joseph M. Nye, executive assistant on the staff of the Guaranty Trust Company, and Harry Scott, superintendent of the New York office of the Pinkerton organization.

As a courtesy to Mr. Norton, who also is an official of the Guaranty Trust Company's Fifth Avenue branch, Mr. Nye, who has had a long experience in much of the Government's secret service work, was detailed to take charge of the case in behalf of the family. During all last week he gave practically his entire time to the inquiry, running out every clue indefatigably. Now that the search threatens to be a protracted one, however, it was felt that Mr. Nye, in justice to his regular work, could no longer devote his time to it. The task, therefore, has been turned over to the Pinkertons.

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4 Pieces, consisting of Full size Bed, Formerly \$788.00, Bureau, Chiffonade, and Vanity, Reduced to \$482

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The Special Price quoted represents a considerable saving on what one might ordinarily expect to pay for such high quality Suits.

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Twill Cords and Tricotines in handsomely tailored long line effects—some revealing artistic use of silk hand embroidery; others strictly plain tailored.

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Superior quality, perfectly made Gloves from one of the highest class French manufacturers—now offered

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Black, White and seasonable colors.

Seasonable, Fine Quality Assortments of

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Presenting Values of unusual Merit

Glove Silk Vests---**\$2.95**

Bodice style, ribbon shoulder; lace and hemstitched or lace and Georgette edge.

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Bodice and shoulder styles. Pink.

BLOOMERS to match, **\$2.95**

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Two rows lace and hemstitched; bodice style.

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Monday and Tuesday **A Sale of Silver Plated Ware** At Special Low Prices

Rogers Silver Plated Tableware	Quadruple Silver Plate	Reproduction Sheffield Silver Plate
Tea or Coffee Spoons, doz. \$2.35	Tea or Coffee Pots \$4.95	Casseroles (Pyrex glass), each \$5.15
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Salad Forks (Individual), " \$5.85	Candelsticks, ea. \$2.85	Double Vegetable Dishes, " \$11.95
Butter Spreaders, - - - " \$5.25	Crumb Sets, 2 pcs. \$3.65	Chop or Serving Trays, 13ins. \$7.75
Medium or Dessert Knives " \$5.85		Gravy Boat and Tray, - each \$8.35
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(MAIN FLOOR.)